



# *NEWS RELEASE*

## **WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE**

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### **Dr. Tom Walsh Named Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year 2004**

**Casper** – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Dr. Tom Walsh, Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year 2004. Steve Despain, District Director, will be presenting this award to Dr. Walsh at the annual banquet of the Casper Chamber of Commerce on June 25, 2004.

This award is given to an individual who has fulfilled a commitment to advancing small business opportunities for veterans of the U.S. armed forces. Evaluation criteria includes active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses; evidence of increased business opportunities for veterans as a result of the nominee's actions; advisory activities to improve awareness among veterans' groups of small business opportunities; advocacy of special consideration for veteran-owned small businesses in government policymaking; demonstrated accomplishment in obtaining support within the community for the establishment of veteran-owned small businesses and other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's effective advocacy of veteran-owned small businesses. The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

Dr. Walsh is military retired from the National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Engineers and is the Pentagon appointed U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador for Wyoming. He is especially in tune with Veterans in his work on the United Veterans UW War Memorial project where he served as co-chair of Natrona County fund raising. He has participated in many funerals as a member of the Veterans Burial Team where he serves as chaplain and serves on the Wyoming Reserve Officers Association.

Dr. Walsh champions economic development and permanent jobs. He has been an advocate of businesses and veterans through his involvement as a board member on the Casper Area Economic Development Alliance (CAEDA) and as vice president of the Casper Area Economic Development Joint Powers Board.

He was elected to the Wyoming State Legislature and has been active in city government as Mayor of Casper and city council member where he was directly involved in jobs for Veterans through the Downtown Development Authority, Civil Service Review Panel, Casper City Council Finance Committee, Police Minority Advisory Committee, Natrona County Drug Court and Municipal Court Coordination Committee.

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